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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 27, 2007

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**NDI CALLS FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN BURMA**  
*Condemns Violent Campaign against Activists by Junta Military Forces*

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) today condemned the violence against pro-democracy demonstrators in Burma and called for the restoration of democracy in the country.

“NDI joins democrats across the world in condemning the violent campaign by the Burmese junta to quell the fundamental rights of citizens to assemble peacefully,” said NDI President Kenneth Wollack. “At this critical moment, the community of democratic nations bears a heavy responsibility to act decisively by using all economic, political and diplomatic means to restore full democracy in Burma, recognizing the 1990 election results that would have brought the National League of Democracy into power.”

Thousands of political activists and citizens have gathered in Rangoon and several other cities across Burma to protest the country’s military dictatorship. Initially organized to voice discontent over the deterioration of the Burmese economy, public demonstrations over the last two weeks are now calling for political freedom and national reconciliation.

Last week, marches led by Buddhist monks encouraged more than 100,000 Burmese citizens to join in peaceful anti-government, pro-democracy street protests – the largest demonstrations the country has seen in nearly two decades. The Burmese junta has responded with a harsh crackdown on protestors – security forces have beaten, wounded and shot demonstrators, and more than 300 activists and monks have been arrested. In an attempt to control further protests, the junta has banned public gatherings, imposed a curfew and deployed soldiers throughout the country.

NDI, Wollack said, remains in solidarity with the international community in demanding the immediate release of political dissidents in Burma, including Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

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